

**BOROUGH OF WOOD-RIDGE
REORGANIZATION MEETING OF JANUARY 7, 2025**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting is called to order at _____ p.m. by _____.

2. SUNSHINE NOTICE:

This meeting is being held in accordance with Public Law 1975 Chapter 231, the Open Public Meetings Act, also known as the “Sunshine Law”. The public meeting notice stating the date, time and place of this meeting was posted on the Borough’s bulletin board and website and was forwarded to The Record and the Star Ledger.

3. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS:

Announcement of results of November 5, 2024 Municipal Election.

- a. Ezio I. Altamura elected to a full three-year term as Councilperson with a vote of 3,017.
- b. Richard J. Wall elected to a full three-year term as Councilperson with a vote of 2,770.

Councilmembers Altamura and Wall to the Dais.

4. ROLL CALL:

Mayor:	Paul Sarlo
Council:	Ezio Altamura
	Dominick Azzolini
	Philip Romero
	Michele Mabel
	Michael Donato
	Richard Wall
Borough Attorney:	Paul Barbire
Borough Engineer:	Brian Intindola
Borough Clerk:	Gina Affuso
Borough Administrator:	Chris Eilert

5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

6. ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- a. Oath of Office is administered to Ezio I. Altamura by Mayor Paul Sarlo.
- b. Oath of Office is administered to Richard J. Wall by Mayor Paul Sarlo.

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7. ADOPTION OF THE BY-LAWS OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Mayor Sarlo calls for a Motion to adopt the By-Laws.

Motion: Councilperson _____, seconded by Councilperson _____ to adopt the By-Laws.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Altamura, Azzolini, Romero, Mabel, Donato, Wall

8. SELECTION OF PRESIDENT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL:

Mayor Sarlo requests Council to select a President of the Council.

Motion: Councilperson _____, seconded by Councilperson _____ to nominate Councilperson _____ as Council President.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Altamura, Azzolini, Romero, Mabel, Donato, Wall

9. ADOPTION OF THE ROLL CALL OF THE MAYOR & COUNCIL:

Mayor Sarlo calls for a motion adopting the following Roll Call.

Mayor: Paul Sarlo
Council: Michele Mabel
Ezio Altamura
Dominick Azzolini
Philip Romero
Michael Donato
Richard Wall

Motion: Councilperson _____, seconded by Councilperson _____ to adopt the Roll Call.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Mabel, Altamura, Azzolini, Romero, Donato, Wall

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10. NOMINATIONS OF STATUTORY OFFICERS: All Effective as of January 1, 2025

Mayor Sarlo nominates **CHRISTOPHER W. EILERT** to the position of Borough Administrator.

Motion: Councilperson _____, seconded by Councilperson _____ appointing CHRISTOPHER W. EILERT to the position of Borough Administrator.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Mabel, Altamura, Azzolini, Romero, Donato, Wall

Mayor Sarlo nominates **PAUL S. BARBIRE** to the position of Borough Attorney.

Motion: Councilperson _____, seconded by Councilperson _____ appointing PAUL S. BARBIRE to the position of Borough Attorney.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Mabel, Altamura, Azzolini, Romero, Donato, Wall

Mayor Sarlo nominates **MICHAEL J. NEGLIA** to the position of Borough Engineer.

Motion: Councilperson _____, seconded by Councilperson _____ appointing MICHAEL J. NEGLIA to the position of Borough Engineer.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Mabel, Altamura, Azzolini, Romero, Donato, Wall

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11. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

Standing Committee Name	Chair	Vice Chair	Member
Buildings & Grounds	Wall	Mabel	Donato
Finance, Insurance & Administration	Donato	Azzolini	Wall
Fire & Emergency Management	Romero	Azzolini	Donato
Law, Land Use & Code Enforcement	Donato	Wall	Azzolini
Police & Public Safety	Altamura	Azzolini	Mabel
Public Information & Events	Mabel	Altamura	Romero
Public Works, Sanitation, Recycling & Utilities	Azzolini	Romero	Altamura

Special Committee Name	Chair	Vice Chair	Member
Special Committee on School Facilities	Mabel	Azzolini	Wall
Special Committee on Recreation Facilities	Romero	Donato	Altamura

	President	Vice President	Members
Board of Health	Donato	Mabel	Altamura, Azzolini, Romero, Wall

Board, Committee, Commission or Constituency	Council Liaison
Board of Education & PTA	Mabel
Community Development	Wall - Donato
Emergency Management	Romero
Historical Society	Azzolini
Joint Insurance Fund	Azzolini
Library Board of Trustees	Romero
Municipal Alliance	Mabel
Planning Board	Donato
Public Events Committee	Mabel - Altamura - Romero
Recreation Commission	Altamura
Senior Citizens	Mabel - Altamura
Veterans	Donato - Altamura

Motion: Councilperson _____, seconded by Councilperson _____ to approve the appointment of Council Committees and Liaisons.

Discussion:

Roll Call: Mabel, Altamura, Azzolini, Romero, Donato, Wall

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MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS: All Effective as of January 1, 2025

Not requiring advice and consent of the Borough Council

a. **Municipal Alcohol & Drug Alliance Committee:**

Michael O'Donnell, Chairperson	1-year term to 12/31/25
David Marchitelli, Vice-Chairperson	1-year term to 12/31/25
Anthony Albro, Secretary	1-year term to 12/31/25

b. **Library Board of Trustees:**

Judy Pepe - Member	5-year term to 12/31/29
Bozena Katic - Member	5-year term to 12/31/29

Designated Alternate of the Mayor:

Catherine Cassidy - Member	1-year term to 12/31/25
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c. **Planning Board:**

Richard Pronti - Class II Member	1-year term to 12/31/25
Robert Ruhle – Class IV Member	4-year term to 12/31/28
Kevin Trotter – Class IV Member	4-year term to 12/31/28
Anthony Sarlo – Class IV Alternate #1 Member	2-year term to 12/31/26
Christian Leone – Class IV Alternate #3 Member	2-year term to 12/31/26

Designated Alternate of the Mayor:

Christopher W. Eilert – Class I Member	1-year term to 12/31/25
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d. **Recreation Commission:**

Lori Ann Iacovino – Member	5-year term to 12/31/29
Barbara Fischkelta– Member	5-year term to 12/31/29
Jason Cata – Alternate Member #1	unexpired term to 12/31/25

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12. CONSENT AGENDA:

All matters listed below are considered to be routine in nature and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by Council, that particular item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

A. RESOLUTIONS: Adoption of the following, **All Effective as of January 1, 2025**

- 001-2025 Appointment of the Borough Administrator and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract. (Christopher W. Eilert).
- 002-2025 Appointment of Borough Attorney and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made part hereof. (Paul S. Barbire, Esq.).
- 003-2025 Appointment of Borough Engineer and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Michael Neglia/ Neglia Group).
- 004-2025 Appointment of Borough Auditor and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Lerch, Vinci & Bliss, LLP).
- 005-2025 Appointment of Appraiser and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made part hereof. (Associated Appraisal Group).
- 006-2025 Appointment of Insurance Consultant. (Professional Insurance Associates, Inc.).
- 007-2025 Appointment of Commissioner for South Bergen Municipal Joint Insurance Fund, Bergen Municipal Excess Liability Fund, Municipal Excess Liability Fund and Bergen Municipal Employee Benefits Fund.
- 008-2025 Appointment of Risk Management Consultant and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Professional Insurance Associates, Inc.).
- 009-2025 Appointment of Insurance Producer/Consultant for Bergen Municipal Employee Benefit Fund. (PIA Security Programs, Inc.).
- 010-2025 Designating various banks as depositories for Borough funds.
- 011-2025 Ratifying bond for Tax Collector and Library Treasurer.
- 012-2025 Approving various named persons as drivers of the fire engines of the Borough of Wood-Ridge.
- 013-2025 Approving rate of interest on delinquent taxes.
- 014-2025 Designating The Record and the Star Ledger as official newspapers.
- 015-2025 Adoption of Schedule of Council Meetings.
- 016-2025 Authorizing Chief Financial Officer to prepare and issue recreation checks in advance of the monthly meetings.
- 017-2025 Authorizing Petty Cash Fund & Change Fund for the year.
- 018-2025 Establishing Temporary Budget Appropriations for the year.
- 019-2025 Approving blanket bond coverage for all employees not required to post individual bond.
- 020-2025 Adoption of Employee Manual dated January 1, 2024.
- 021-2025 Authorizing Chief Financial Officer to prepare employee payrolls.
- 022-2025 Authorizing Chief Financial Officer to release semi-monthly payroll checks.

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- 023-2025 Authorizing additional penalties on delinquent property taxes.
- 024-2025 Approving Cash Management Plan.
- 025-2025 Approving Interlocal Mutual Aid and Rapid Deployment Force.
- 026-2025 Approving Rules and Regulations for the Wood-Ridge Police Department.
- 027-2025 Authorizing Participation in Department of Defense 1033 Equipment Program.
- 028-2025 Appointment of Special Counsel for Bond Issuance and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Rogut, McCarthy, LLC.; Parker McCay PA; McManimon, Scotland & Bauman LLC).
- 029-2025 Appointment of Special Counsel for Redevelopment and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Aronsohn, Weiner, Salerno & Kaufman, PC; McManimon, Scotland & Bauman LLC; Parker McCay PA).
- 030-2025 Appointment of Special Counsel for Land Use and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Aronsohn, Weiner, Salerno & Kaufman, PC).
- 031-2025 Appointment of Special Counsel for Tax Appeals and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution. (Paul S. Barbire, Esq.; Cleary, Giacobbe, Alfieri, Jacobs, LLC)
- 032-2025 Appointment of Special Counsel for Litigation and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Waters, McPherson & McNeill, PC.; Aronsohn, Weiner, Salerno & Kaufman, PC).
- 033-2025 Appointment of Planning Consultants and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Neglia Group; Phillips Preiss).
- 034-2025 Appointment of Financial Advisor for Bond Issuance and Continuing Disclosure and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Phoenix Advisors).
- 035-2025 Appointment of Environmental Engineer and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Mott MacDonald Engineering)
- 036-2025 Appointment of Architectural Firms and authorizing Mayor and Clerk to execute contract for services, if needed, as per the terms set forth in the appointing resolution attached hereto and made a part hereof. (Connolly & Hickey; DiCara Rubino).
- 037-2025 Authorizing Use of Home Depot Store Credit Card.

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B. APPOINTMENTS: All Effective as of January 1, 2025

Nomination by the Mayor requiring advice and consent of the Borough Council, unless otherwise noted

- a. **ADA Coordinator:**
Paul S. Barbire, Esq. 1-year term to 12/31/25
- b. **Assessment Searcher:**
Gina Affuso 1-year term to 12/31/25
- c. **Deputy Borough Clerk:**
Cathleen Calabro 1-year term to 12/31/25
- d. **C.E.P.A. Officer (Conscientious Employee Protection Act):**
Paul S. Barbire, Esq. 1-year term to 12/31/25
- e. **Chiropractor:**
Leonard V. Deleasa, D.C. 1-year term to 12/31/25
- f. **Office of Community Services:**
Catherine Cassidy – Coordinator 1-year term to 12/31/25
- g. **Office of Emergency Management:** Not applicable until 1/1/26
- h. **Emergency Management Council:**
Jerome A. Cala, Jr. – Public Member 1-year term to 12/31/25
- i. **Historian:** 1-year terms to 12/31/25
Catherine Cassidy – Historian
Patricia Sloan – Deputy Historian
Dorothy Dobek – Assistant Historian
- j. **Municipal Court Judge:**
Giuseppe Randazzo, Esq. 3-year term to 12/31/27
- k. **Municipal Court Prosecutor:** 1-year terms to 12/31/25
Ronald Dario, Esq. - Prosecutor
Kellie Reyes, Esq. - Alternate #1
Elsbeth Crusius, Esq. - Alternate #2

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- l. **Municipal Court Public Defender:** 1-year terms to 12/31/25
John Bruno Jr., Esq. - Public Defender
Jonathan Bruno, Esq. - Alternate #1

- m. **Planning Board:** (Nominated by the Borough Council) 1-year term to 12/31/25
Michael Donato – Class II Member

- n. **Office of Property Maintenance:** 1-year terms to 12/31/25
William Wolfsohn - Code Enforcement Officer
Richard Pronti - Deputy Code Enforcement Officer
Thomas Bischoff, Jr. - Assistant Code Enforcement Officer

- o. **Public Agency Compliance Officer (P.A.C.O.):** 1-year term to 12/31/25
Paul S. Barbire, Esq.

- p. **Public Hearing Official:** 1-year term to 12/31/25
Christopher W. Eilert

- q. **Office of Safety and Risk Management:** 1-year term to 12/31/25
William Wolfsohn – Coordinator

- r. **Tax Searcher:** 1-year term to 12/31/25
Kellie Romero

- s. **Teterboro Aircraft Noise Abatement Advisory Committee:** 1-year term to 12/31/25
Designated Representatives of the Mayor and Council:
Gina Affuso

- t. **Assistant Treasurer:** 1-year term to 12/31/25
Kyle Wiedemann

- u. **Bureau of Vital Statistics:** Not applicable until 1/1/26

- v. **Zoning Officer:** 1-year term to 12/31/25
Richard Pronti

- w. **Fire Prevention Bureau (Licensed Inspectors):** 1-year terms to 12/31/25
John Kurz – Fire Official
Christopher Mazzocchi – Deputy Fire Official
Gilbert Ruiz - Inspector
Al Cirelli - Inspector
Thomas Bischoff, Jr. – Inspector

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x. **Fire Department Officers:**

1-year terms to 12/31/25

Kevin Cribben –Chief
Nicholas Meglio – 1st Assistant Chief
Michael Cribben – 2nd Assistant Chief
Liam Maloney – Captain
Mateusz Czwakiel – Lieutenant
Nicholas Fallon – Corresponding Secretary
Thomas Bischoff, Jr. - Recording Secretary
Ronald Phillips, Sr. - Treasurer

ADOPTION OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion: Councilperson _____, seconded by _____ moved to the adoption of all matters on the above **CONSENT AGENDA**.

Roll Call: Mabel, Altamura, Azzolini, Romero, Donato, Wall

13. GOVERNING BODY REMARKS & PRESENTATIONS:

- a. Council Statements
- b. Mayor’s Annual Address
- c. Presentations

14. HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Mayor Sarlo declares the Hearing of Citizens to be open.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Sarlo calls for a Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Councilperson _____, seconded by Councilperson _____, moved for adjournment. By unanimous vote of the members of the Council present, the Reorganization Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Wood-Ridge held on January 7, 2025 was duly adjourned at _____ p.m.